

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 19, 2000. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicant has responded to each notation of the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, further examination, and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 2, 4, 5, 10-14, 17-20, and 24 are allowable. Claims 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 14, 17-20, and 24 have not been amended and therefore remain in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended Claim 13 to correct a typographical error in the claim, so Claim 13 also remains in condition for allowance.

Section 112 Rejection

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 15, 16, 21-23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the threshold voltage generator is operable to generate a threshold voltage signal "of less than 500 millivolts." The specification has also been amended to recite that the threshold voltage signal may, for example, be less than 500 millivolts, 50 millivolts, or 10 millivolts. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, on page 15, lines 13-17 in Applicant's Specification as originally filed, and in Claims 15, 16, 21, and 23 as originally filed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the specification, as amended, provides clear support for the elements recited in Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 15, 21-23, and 25-29. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection and full allowance of Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 15, 21-23, and 25-29.

CONCLUSION

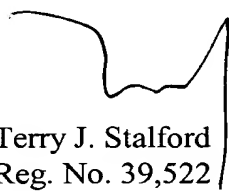
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case, the undersigned attorney for Applicant, Terry J. Stalford, stands willing to conduct such a telephone interview at the convenience of the Examiner. Mr. Stalford may be reached at 214-953-6477.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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